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09/18/1985 - William Hoffee Dinner Announcing Plans

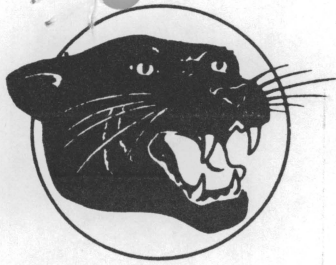
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--William Hoffee, a Fairfield attorney and member of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities, was a guest speaker at the recent Eastern Illinois University dinner announcing plans to raise \$450,000 to improve O'Brien Stadium facilities.

Primary improvements call for the installation of a new artificial track and lights. Plans also include renovating and expanding the pressbox, artificial turf for the sidelines, a new flagpole (already installed) and operations revenue for general upkeep.

Hoffee told the 150 person-gathering that "the fund drive to 'Brighten O'Brien' is an important part of the EIU Foundation's five year campaign to raise \$5 million in private funds.

"It is absolutely necessary for Eastern to have the proper physical facilities for its athletic programs. The addition of lights, the new track surface recently approved by the board, the press area renovations and the garrison flag and pole will create a first rate facility.

"The Board recognizes that true excellence in a BOG institution requires private fund raising efforts. In recent years Eastern certainly has achieved excellence in its athletic programs, as it long has had in its academic programs. 'Brighten O'Brien' will endow that excellence," Hoffee said.

"The O'Brien Stadium facility provides a means for the University to fulfill its mission of serving the people of this region by providing a site to host the state track meets and other area high school activities plus being able to entertain the public through quality intercollegiate athletic events," said EIU President Stanley Rives.

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Jim Edgar, Illinois Secretary of State and an EIU alumnus, is National Chairman of the six month drive. Ray Suddarth of Fairfield is a member of the 10-person campaign steering committee.